

Buffalo, Dec. 14, 1874.

My dear Gray:

I have read with profit  
your charming article "Do varieties wear  
out, or not" in The Tribune of the 9<sup>th</sup>.  
But I am not impressed that  
cross-fertilization of individuals of  
a species is a condition of the  
continuance of the species. Perhaps  
(plants being aggregations of individ-  
uals ~~of~~ zoophyte-like) the whole  
family of grasses & that of  
the Cyperaceae - by their very  
construction of the flower hermaphro-  
dite flowers, rendering its self-ferti-  
zation easiest and, in some  
cases at least - foreign fertilization  
difficult, if not impossible -  
seem to run counter to the hypothesis.

Perhaps, if the question, if it be  
one - whether the flower bud is an  
unit, or an aggregate of individ-  
uals, may enter into a discussion  
of the hypothesis. If each stamen  
& pistil be an individual - then,  
why is not the stamen born  
of the same bud as the pistil, as  
foreign <sup>but</sup> as one born with another  
pistil? Now I don't pretend  
to judge such things - but make  
these crude suggestions thinking they  
may amuse you, if they be not  
fitted to set you a thinking or  
investigating.

Alas! I have not seen any  
announcement of the Flora Californica!

And then you have not  
noticed my last - one of inquiry  
touching the price of Gray's Completion  
of a Botanical Report Commenced  
by the Sanitad Torrey.

Ever most truly,

W. W. Chittenden.

Dr Asa Gray.